



FACT SHEET

WHMIS & Code Brown

It is important that all employees at Capital Health understand their responsibilities under the WHMIS program. Employees are required to know and understand the chemicals that they are expected to work with.

This includes:

- Personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements;
- First aid measures;
- Safe handling, as well as;
- Spill, clean up and disposal procedures.

Managers and Supervisors must ensure that employees are properly trained, and that appropriate procedures are in place for working with these chemicals.

Each department/unit is expected to know how to respond if a chemical of theirs is spilled or released in the department.

- If the spill is minor, and within the departments capabilities they must have the appropriate equipment and materials to clean up the chemical.
- If the spill is too large, the chemical is unknown or the employee(s) feel it is beyond their capabilities to address they must initiate a Code Brown by calling 473-3333.

If a Code Brown is called, a response team will called to the department or unit and will aid in the containment, clean up and disposal.

The response team may include, but is not limited to:

- Fire Department/Emergency responders;
- Security;
- Emergency Preparedness;
- Fire Safety Officer;
- Occupational Hygienist;
- Safety Officer(s);
- Housekeeping, and;
- Media Relations.

It is important to understand the rolls everyone plays during a Code Brown response. Capital Health teams who are part of the response team will be there to assist the Fire Department or Emergency Responders. Housekeeping's role is to aid the fire department with disposal equipment/material as well as the removal of contaminated material.

NOTE: The only chemical spill that Housekeeping is trained to clean up is Mercury.